THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) : An agreement pertaining to Transfer of Technology (TOT) for manufacture of radars in India by M/s. Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has been signed by the American Company with the National Airports Authority (NAA). The scope of TOT covers the transfer of technical know-how including complete documentation, training, supply of jigs and fixtures to enable BEL manufacture and sell Airports Surveillance Radar and Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radar. The agreement also provides for buy-back arrangements of components, modules, sub-systems and services from BEL by M/s. Westinghouse Overseas Corporation (WOSCO). The TOT Agreement will be in force for 8 years during which period M/s. WOSCO would supply BEL all updates and improvements to the radar systems for incorporation by BEL. BEL has also been given exclusive sales right in India and rights of non-exclusive sales in other countries excluding USA where it will be through M/s. WOSCO. The cost of TOT is US $ 5.954 million.

Introduction of machine readable documents facilities at International Airports

3375. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the International Airports Authority of India has sought the assistance of Government to help to reduce the waiting time of air passengers at the major airports by introducing a Machine Readable Documents facility to screen the travel documents;

(b) if so, what action Government has taken in this regard;

(c) whether any action is being taken to upgrade the existing equipment to screen authorised and unauthorised entrants into the airports with the help of a Dutchd firm; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) The International Airports Authority of India has made certain suggestions to the Ministry of Home Affairs, including introduction of Machine Readable Documents facility.

(c) and (d) : No such proposal has been received by the Government.

Construction of New ITDC Hotels in Gujarat

3376. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKAR DAVE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) what steps have been taken by Government to establish ITDC Hotels during the Eighth Five Year plan in Ahmedabad, Baroda, Surat, Rajkot, Gandhinagar, Jamnagar and Bhuj Gandhidham in Kutch District in Gujarat; and

(b) what are the details of the project and infrastructure of funds of project of ITDC hotels in Gujarat to promote hotel industry in Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) : During the 8th Five Year Plan period, ITDC envisages to set up only one budget hotel in Ahmedabad, which would also depend upon the availability of land and funds and commercial viability of the project.

Projects for strengthening tourism infrastructure

3377. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Tourism had launched a number of programmes to accelerate the development of tourism and its infrastructure in the country during the last three years till date;

(b) if so, what are the details of projects/schemes sanctioned alongwith the costs thereof; and

(c) what are the details of progress in implementation of each of these project/schemes during the same period ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(a) and (b) Development of Tourism is a continuous process. The Central Government extends financial assistance to the State Governments for augmentation of infrastructural facilities at important tourist centres as well as to publicise them. The schemes for augmentation of tourism infrastructure include construction of tourist bungalows, tourist complexes, yatri niwases, wayside facilities, tourist reception centres, beach resorts and tented accommodation. Funds are also provided for the purchase of adventure sports equipment such as water sports, trekking, mountaineering, rock climbing and aero sports etc.

The number of projects sanctioned during the Seventh Five Year Plan and till date alongwith funds sanctioned and released thereof are as follows :

(Rs. in lakhs)

	No. of Projects	Amount sanctioned	Amount released
7th Plan	370	5713.54	4740.80
1990-91	191	2805.72	1593.83
1991-92	274	3651.29	1937.95
1992-93	94	1315.02	642.71

Light Transport Aircraft Project

3378. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are committed to back the Light Transport Aircraft Project and allow investment in it;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have plan to provide necessary protection to the proposed industry against foreign competition ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) A project for development of Light Transport Aircraft at the National Aeronautical Laboratory has been approved by the Governing body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). The National Aeronatical Laboratory has sought an assistance of Rs. 20.00 crores from Government as part contribution for the project. No financial commitment has, however, been made by CSIR/Government, on this account so far. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has not sought from the Government any protection against foreign competition for the project.

Effect of Free Convertibility of Rupee on Hotel Tariff

3379. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the travel trade have asked Government to ensure that following the free convertibility of the Rupee, the hotel tariff should also be in Indian currency as otherwise India would be priced out, as per a newsitem titled "Hoteliers' plea on tariff which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 5th March, 1993;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) With the